JUNE 20

MOM + DAD,

WELL IT'S ME AGAIN. I GOT A CHANCE TO WRITE BECAUSE I'm BACK ON THE LZ. THEY FINALLY EXTRACTED US FROM OUR LAST AO BECAUSE WE LOST SO MANY MEN. I MADE IT THROUGH ALL THOSE FIRE FIGHTS WITHOUT A SCRATCH AND THEN I COME BACK TO THE LZ AND GOT HIT. LAST NIGHT I WAS JUST GETTING BACK INTO MY BUNKER WHEN CHARLIE DROPPED A 60 mm MORTAR ABOUT 30 FEET AWAY. I WAS LUCKY. I JUST PICKED UP A SMALL PIECE OF SCHRAPNEL IN MY RIGHT ARM, JUST ABOVE MY ARM PIT. IT WAS SO SMALL IT ONLY REQUIRED A PIECE OF GAUZE AND A BAND-AID. I'LL PROBABLY GET A PURPLE HEART THOUGH. BIG DEAL!

I FINALLY GOT YOUR PACKAGES TODAY. THE CAMERA IS JUST RIGHT. BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP SENDING ME FILM EVERY SO OFTEN, BECAUSE ITS SO HARD TO GET OVER HERE. NIB-BITS ARE GOOD BUT I'm SORT OF GETTING TIRED OF THEM, SO DON'T SEND ME ANY MORE. TELL GAIL HER COOKIES AND BROWNIES LASTED ABOUT AS LONG AS IT TOOK ME TO TAKE THEM OUT OF THE BOX. THE PACKAGES WERE REALLY GREAT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU READ ABOUT BIEN HOA, BUT I WISH I COULD BE THERE. SO FAR I'VE YET TO HEAR OF A DAY IN BIEN HOA OR PHUOC VINH, THAT WAS EVEN A LITTLE SCARY. MOST OF THOSE THINGS ARE BUILT UP, BECAUSE THEY TAKE PLACE IN RATHER LARGE POPULATED AREAS. THE NEWS IS SO MANGLED UP, IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE.

LIKE I SAID, RIGHT NOW I'M ON "JAMIE". BUT LAST NIGHT THERE WAS A LARGE GROUND ATTACK ON LZ "IKE". THEY ALMOST SENT US THERE.

MY GEAR IS EVERYTHING I CARRY OUT IN THE FIELD. I HAVE A RUCKSACK FRAME WITH PACK ATTACHED. I CARRY A RADIO (26 LBS.), 5 QTS of WATER, GAS MASK, M-16 AUTO RIFLE, 300 ROUNDS OF AMMO, 8 SMOKE GRENADES, 3 FRAGMENTATION GRENADES, 2 RADIO BATTERIES (4x10x2), AND A BEDROLL AND PERSONAL GEAR. I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT ALL GOES THOUGH. I'D ESTIMATE ABOUT 85 LBS WITHOUT C-RATIONS. (THEY WEIGH TOO)!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME RISKING MY NECK FOR A BELT OR SANDALS. I CAN GET SANDALS OFF ANY GOOK. ALL VIETNAMESE WEAR THEM. CACHE's AND BUNKERS ARE THE RISKY ONES. YOU CAN USUALLY TELL IF THEIR BOOBY TRAPPED, BUT BEFORE I GO INTO A BUNKER, A GRENADE GOES FIRST. ASK DAD, IT WILL DEFINITELY DO A JOB ON A PERSON IN A 5' SQUARE HOLE. I'LL BE OK. DON'T WORRY, NO SWEAT GI.

AS YET I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM ANYONE FROM NATCOL. I WROTE A RATHER FUNNY LETTER THE OTHER DAY, AND I SHOULD HEAR FROM HIM.

DID I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT THE OTHER GUY IN OUR COMPANY, BY THE NAME OF GUSTAFSON. THEY HAD US ALL MIXED UP AT THE TRAINING CENTER AND WOULDN'T YOU KNOW, HE ENDED UP IN DELTA COMPANY. WELL FIRST THEY SENT MY MAIL TO CO. C AND SENT ME HIS MAIL. WELL HE WAS WOUNDED, AND NOW THEY SEND ALL MY MAIL TO THE HOSPITAL FIRST. ONE GUSTAFSSON IS BAD ENOUGH.

WELL, BETTER BE GOING FOR NOW. I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE'LL BE HEADED NEXT, BUT I'LL BE SURE AND LET YOU KNOW. THANKS FOR EVERYTHING. ALL FOR NOW. LOVE YOU ALL.

LOVE

ERIC

W/B

W/S